UNITED NATIONS **S**

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LETTER DATED 7 DECEMBER 1994 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ANGOLA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit the text of a message dated 5 December 1994 from His Excellency Mr. José Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola, addressed to His Excellency Mr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Secretary-General of the United Nations, with the request that it be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Afonso VAN DUNEM "MBINDA"
Permanent Representative

Annex

Message dated 5 December 1994 from the President of Angola addressed to the Secretary-General

As a result of the signing of the Lusaka Protocol on 20 November by the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), I am writing you in reference to practical aspects regarding the implementation of the Protocol.

As you know, the Angolan Government is deeply engaged in doing everything within its power to guarantee the complete implementation of the Protocol. The Government is convinced that Angolans have before them an opportunity for lasting peace that must not be wasted.

For this reason, it will be necessary to avoid at all costs incidents that are taking place a little at a time throughout the country and which could have negative consequences for the peace process.

We fear that these incidents could assume serious proportions that come to signify a deliberate violation by UNITA of the spirit and the letter of the Lusaka Protocol. It could threaten the good faith and understanding with which everyone is looking forward to the next steps.

We consider urgent, therefore, the placement of United Nations observers throughout Angola, and above all in the most sensitive areas, including those currently under UNITA control. This would at least guarantee a minimum level of effectiveness of the Lusaka Protocol in consolidating the cease-fire and subsequent resolution of all the agreed military issues - until the deployment of forces of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III (UNAVEM III).

I ask that you present these matters to the Security Council meeting on Angola scheduled for 8 December. It is important that that body make provisions for the establishment of an adequate United Nations force as soon as possible. This force must have an appropriate mandate to assure the monitoring of the cease-fire, as well as the quartering, disarming and demobilization of UNITA military troops.

I remind you that, in coordination with the United Nations, the Angolan Government already has invited formally 15 countries to contribute personnel to UNAVEM III. Most of the replies have been positive and a list of those countries is attached.

It has come to our attention, however, that the list has been modified and now anticipates the inclusion of elements from other countries in UNAVEM III. This was a surprise for the Angolan Government since we were not previously consulted on the matter.

We understand that there may be difficulties in maintaining the list of cited countries complete due to preconditions that they themselves may impose.

However, we desire that any eventual substitutions be made in close coordination with the Angolan Government.

I wish to inform you that the Angolan Government would not find it acceptable, for reasons you also understand, to include contingents in UNAVEM III from countries that have been involved directly or indirectly in the Angolan conflict.

I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm to you the same concerns and requirements integral to the implementation of the Lusaka Protocol that I expressed to you in my letter of 13 November which was delivered by Mr. Venâncio de Moura, the Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Angola.

José Eduardo DOS SANTOS
President of the Republic of Angola

Attachment

List of some of the countries contacted for the supply of contingents to UNAVEM III

1. Zambia
2. Zimbabwe
3. Brazil
4. Sweden
5. Finland
6. Ghana
7. India
8. Nigeria
9. Spain
10. Argentina
11. Guinea-Bissau
12. Australia
13. United Republic of Tanzania
14. Uganda
15. Egypt

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LETTER DATED 10 NOVEMBER 1994 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I should like to call to the attention of the members of the Security Council the attached statement of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Somalia. The Committee, established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991, includes representatives of United Nations organizations, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in humanitarian assistance operations. The statement also reflects the conclusions of a special meeting convened at Nairobi on 24 and 25 October 1994, with the participation of all interested entities, to review the future of humanitarian operations in Somalia following the termination of the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia II (UNOSOM II).

I believe that the statement will contribute to the deliberations of the Council and hope that members of the Council will give full consideration to the various issues raised therein.

(Signed) Boutros BOUTROS-GHALI

Annex

Statement of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Somalia

During the 1992/1993 humanitarian emergency in Somalia, hundreds of thousands of lives were saved thanks to the massive relief operations undertaken by United Nations organizations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations under the security protection of Unified Task Force (UNITAF) and United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) forces.

With the end of the acute emergency phase, Somalia has faded away from the world media's attention. The donor community is increasingly disillusioned by the failure of the national reconciliation process and is furthermore called upon to support new dramatic humanitarian situations elsewhere. The mandate of UNOSOM is scheduled to expire in March 1995, and with it, the important programme support and operational services which UNOSOM has provided to humanitarian relief operations.

Nevertheless, the United Nations organizations working in Somalia reconfirm their commitment to continue to the maximum extent possible emergency and rehabilitation activities even beyond the expiration of the UNOSOM mandate. Intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations have played a vital role in this effort and, it is hoped, will continue to do so. The immediate goal is to continue to address the pressing needs of the most vulnerable groups, including nearly 900,000 externally and internally displaced persons representing close to 20 per cent of the total population. The hope is that the Somali leaders will rapidly end their destructive rivalry so that the country can engage in rehabilitation and reconstruction under acceptable conditions of security and stability.

Unfortunately, this is not possible in most regions of Somalia. Even the very basic community services such as health, water supply and primary education are unlikely to be sustained much beyond the withdrawal of external financial or management support. Banditry and threats to life and property continue to take a heavy toll on the capacity of relief workers to deliver assistance and launch sustainable rehabilitation programmes.

In fact, the security situation in most parts of the country has deteriorated steadily throughout 1994. The offices, staff quarters and warehouses of United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations are regularly besieged and harassed by heavily armed gunmen who move freely in the streets of Mogadishu and in the countryside. The withdrawal of United Nations forces in the absence of a political settlement will exacerbate this situation and could result in the withdrawal of staff and the cessation of humanitarian activities in significant areas. Under such a scenario, any natural disaster or any return to the generalized lawlessness of the pre-UNITAF period would rapidly degenerate into a predictable new emergency and its intolerable consequences on human lives and the internal and external displacement of people.

To minimize the potential negative impact on humanitarian and rehabilitation activities, as the mandate of UNOSOM II draws to an end, it is important to ensure an orderly transition to the traditional mandates of United Nations organizations. This process should start as early as feasible so that new operational, security, coordination and management mechanisms can be put in place well before UNOSOM completes its mission.

Relief and development workers in Somalia stress that security at major airports and seaports as well as rescue and evacuation capacity remain essential to their work and their ability to field staff and carry out programmes. Without a continued military presence or new security arrangements, it will not be possible to provide the necessary assistance to the Somali people.

United Nations organizations have agreed to adopt a common and coordinated approach to retain or replace the essential programme support and operational services formerly provided by UNOSOM. They are committed to developing a common framework for action with the full participation of all operational partners. To this end, it is proposed that a United Nations coordination team be established, composed of senior representatives of United Nations organizations active in Somalia and chaired by the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), who will also serve as Humanitarian Coordinator. Full advantage will be taken of the differing security conditions in the various parts of the country to implement emergency and rehabilitation programmes whenever and wherever possible.

The Security Council is urged to support this process of transition by considering possible arrangements for the establishment of protected humanitarian operational bases at essential ports and airports, by authorizing the transfer to operational United Nations organizations and international non-governmental organizations of equipment and assets now being used by UNOSOM and by making available to the new coordination arrangement the core UNOSOM humanitarian and security staff as soon as possible. United Nations organizations urge that positive consideration be given to the funding of security requirements by a special allocation so as not to divert voluntary funds made available for humanitarian activities.

The international donor community has in the past generously supported humanitarian efforts in Somalia. Their continued support is essential to continuing these efforts after the withdrawal of UNOSOM military forces.

In the final analysis, all international assistance in Somalia must be founded on the basic principle of Somali responsibility. This means that the Somali people must determine the course of their future. Equally important, they must bear responsibility for ensuring conditions which will permit the effective implementation of humanitarian, rehabilitation and development programmes.